

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez (CA-47) led a coalition of members from the Subcommittee on Strategic Forces and signed onto a letter calling on the House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan to clarify the Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 proposed budget allocations that appear to negatively affect our nation’s nuclear deterrent and disrupt nonproliferation programs that are vital to our national security.

Chairman Ryan’s proposed FY 2011 budget allocations, as described in H. Res. 38, would reduce all “non-security spending” to FY 08 levels. However, the term “non-security spending” is not defined in the resolution and it is unclear whether the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), a part of the Department of Energy, would have to compete for “non-security” resources. The Chairman of the House Rules Committee has interpreted “non-security spending” as any spending besides defense, military, construction, veterans or homeland security spending—leaving it uncertain whether the NNSA could face cuts.

As a member of the House Armed Services Committee and Ranking Member of the Strategic Forces Subcommittee, Congresswoman Sanchez will push to ensure funding for NNSA is exempt from budget cuts, as a reduction in funding may disrupt weapons activities and nonproliferation programs vital to national security.

“Failure to fully fund the NNSA’s vital programs would undermine our efforts to promote international nuclear safety and unnecessarily increase the likelihood of global danger caused by weapons of mass destruction,” Sanchez said. “I urge Chairman Ryan to weigh the impact these proposed budget reductions may have on our national security and to recognize the National Nuclear Security Administration as specifically exempt from these cuts.

“I’d also like to thank Congressman Heinrich for his tremendous leadership on this issue.”

Please contact adrienne.watson@mail.house.gov for a copy of the letter.